

**REMARKS**

This is in response to the Official Action currently outstanding in the above-identified application, which Official Action the Examiner has designated as being FINAL.

Claims 1-19, 22 and 26-30 were pending in the above-identified application at the time of the issuance of the currently outstanding Official Action. Claims 20, 21, and 23 - 25 were canceled previously, without prejudice. By the foregoing Amendment, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 26. No further claims are canceled, added or withdrawn. Accordingly, in the event that the Examiner grants the entry of the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1-19, 22 and 26-30 as hereinabove amended will constitute the claims under active prosecution in the above-identified application.

The claims of the above-identified application as they will stand in the event that the Examiner grants the entry of the foregoing Amendment are reproduced above including appropriate status identifiers and showing the changes being made as required by the Rules.

In the currently outstanding Official Action, the Examiner has:

1. Again acknowledged Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 USC §119 (a)-(d) or (f), and reconfirmed the receipt by the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the required copies of the priority documents.
2. Not re-acknowledged his acceptance of the formal drawings filed on, 13 December 2005. – **Applicants respectfully notes that the drawings were accepted previously during this prosecution.**
3. Rejected the claims as follows: Claims 1-11, 13, 19, 22 and 26-30 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsumagari (US Published Patent Application No. 2003/0161615) in view of Miwa et al (US Patent No. 6,553,179).

4. Rejected Claim 12 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsumagari in view of Miwa et al further in view of Evans et al. (US Patent No. 7,469,410).
5. Rejected Claims 14-18 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsumagari in view Miwa et al further in view of Proehl (US Patent No. 6,614,844).

No further comment regarding the remaining items 1-2 above is deemed to be required in these Remarks.

With respect to the remaining items listed above, however, Applicants have the following comments.

By the foregoing Amendment, Applicants are proposing the Claims 1 and 26 be amended so as to clarify the following features of the present invention:

- (i) that the “scene”, the “key” and the “program” are correlated with each other, and
- (ii) that the main function of the key is masked, and the program is correlated with the key whose function is masked.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-proposed amendments to the claims of the present application are supported in this application as originally filed at Claims 8 and 10, and by Fig. 2 and the related discussion thereof. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing clarifying amendments serve to clarify not only Applicants’ intended scope of the claims of the present application, but also more clearly and definitively indicate the distinctions of the present invention from the cited Miwa reference.

Applicant: Katsushi Ohizumi et al.  
USSN: 10/560,542  
Page 14

Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that despite the teachings, disclosures and suggestions in the art available at the time that the present invention was made, the art cited and relied upon by the Examiner is not sufficient in and of itself and/or in combination with the presumed knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention (without the direction of Applicants' specification) to render the claims as hereinabove presented unpatentable.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that the Miwa disclosure would not have disclosed, taught or suggested the currently claimed invention to one skilled in the art at the time that the present invention was made. Therefore, entry of the foregoing Amendments, reconsideration and allowance of this application with the above-amended claims in response to this submission is respectfully requested.

Applicants also believe that additional fees beyond those submitted herewith are not required in connection with the consideration of this response to the currently outstanding Official Action. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge and/or credit Deposit Account No. **04-1105**, as necessary, for the correct payment of all fees which may be due in connection with the filing and consideration of this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 14, 2010

  
SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

Reg. No.: 27,840

David A. Tucker  
(Type or print name of practitioner)  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Tel. No. (617) 517-5508

Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP  
P.O. Box 55874  
P.O. Address

Customer No.: 21874

Boston, MA 02205